GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2410
ANSWERED ON:09.05.2016
Forest Tourism
Lokhande Shri Sadashiv Kisan

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a huge potential of wildlife and forest tourism in the country especially in the State of Maharashtra; and
(b) if so, the steps taken to tap the potential of the said sectors of tourism in the country including Maharashtra?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a) to (b): India has huge tourism potential including wildlife and forest tourism in the country including in the State of Maharashtra.

Development and promotion of tourist destinations and products including Wildlife & Forest Tourism is primarily the responsibility of the respective State Government/Union Territory (UT) Administration including the State of Maharashtra.

The Government of Maharashtra informs that it has recognized the potential of Wildlife Tourism in the State and taken following measures:

i. An Eco Tourism Board has been formed with the mandate of only developing tourism infrastructure in the core areas of State's wild life parks. This Board will work in coordination with Tourism Department.
ii. Bed & Breakfast scheme around Wild life parks has been promoted.

iii. Tourism department has undertaken several basic infrastructure activities in the buffer areas.
iv. Wildlife Resorts take part in the Travel Marts as the partner of Maharashtra Tourism.

However, for development of tourism infrastructure in the country, the Ministry of Tourism has launched the Swadesh Darshan scheme - Integrated Development of Theme-Based Tourist Circuits, in 2014-15. Wildlife Circuit has been identified as one of the thirteen thematic circuits for development under the scheme. The Ministry has sanctioned following projects to the State Governments of Assam and Madhya Pradesh in the year 2015-16 under Wildlife Circuit theme of Swadesh Darshan scheme:
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State Name of Project Amount Sanctioned
(Rs. in Crore)
Madhya Pradesh Development of Wildlife Circuit at Panna- Mukundpur- Sanjay- Dubri-Bandhavgarh-Kanha-Mukki-Pench. 92.22
Assam Wildlife Circuit of Assam. 95.67
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